

January 10, 2005

Country of Origin Labeling Program  
Room 2092-S  
Agricultural Marketing Service,  
USDA STOP 0249  
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250-0249

Dear COOL Administrator:

While it was heartening to see the USDA implement interim COOL rules for fish and shellfish a full two years ahead of the deadline for the other foods that fall under country of origin labeling requirements, I fear that too much ground has been left uncovered.

Processed seafood would be exempted, effectively removing half of all seafood in the United States from COOL requirements. Companies with less than \$750,000 in annual receipts would also be exempted under current plans, effectively removing as much as 90% of the retail community from COOL labeling requirements.

I urge the USDA to include processed seafood and to include all seafood companies in the COOL requirements, and I also urge you to implement a real enforcement policy and a set of significant penalties for failure to follow COOL rules.

Sincerely,

SUE & E. MORRIS  
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